The techno-economic clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) was obtained on 8.8.1995 and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) signed on 30.5.1996. Construction work has started on the project. First three units each of 110 MW were commissioned during 1995-96. The balance is expected to be commissioned soon.

2. JAMNAGAR

Installed Capacity : 500 MW
Executing Agency : Reliance Power Ltd.

In-principle clearance (IPC) of CEA was obtained on 1.3.1995. The Project has not yet obtained the techno-economic clearance of CEA.

3. PAGUTHAN

Installed Capacity : 655 MW
Executing Agency : Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation Ltd.

The TEC of CEA was obtained on 25.11.1993 and the PPA signed on 3.2.1994. This project has obtained financial closure. Civil construction for all major structures started at site and the first gas turbine is expected to be commissioned before end 1997. The full plant is expected to be commissioned by 1999-2000.

Stoppage of Salaries of CEA Functionaries

1333. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the salaries of a number of functionaries of Central Electricity Authority were stopped in a very high handed manner;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government instituted any enquiry in this regard;

1 (d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to • take to stop such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The salaries for the month of March, 1997 of some officials holding temporary posts in Central Electricity Authority could not be released for want of sanction for continuance of these posts, as stipulated under the Rule. Sanction could not be issued in time for want of information from the CEA. However, to avoid hardship, after obtaining the approval of the competent authority the salaries of these officials were released on 3.4.1997, a day after it fell due for payment.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The temporary posts are continued on year to year basis depending upon the work load and justifications for their continuance.

Setting up of Central Energy Conservation Authority

1334. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be leased to state:

(a) whether the Government have re cently decided to set up a Central Energy Conservation Authority; and

(b) if so, the need and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) With a view to laying down standards and norms for energy consumption for equipment and

appliances consuming energy or in production and supply of energy; enforcing a scheme for energy labelling and mandating energy audits for designated consum ers, the Central Government is considering proposing an enactment for energy conservation which would, *inter-alia,* provide for an agency to perform such functions.

Loan facilities for States by NHPC

1335. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydel Power Corporation is providing loan facilities to some States;

(b) if so, the main purpose thereof;

(c) the details of loans outstanding against these beneficiary States as on March, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the National Hydel Power Corporation for the recovery of such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rationalisation of Power Tariffs

1336. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards and Undertakings have been asked to rationalise and raise power tariffs with a view to raise resources enough to provide for 40 thousand Megawatt additional power capacity during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that while some of the Electricity Boards and authorities have already increased the tariffs recently considerably, while others are announcing and implementing populist schemes including free distribution of power to different sections of society; and

(c) the steps being taken to rationalise the tariff structure in such a way so as to bring about some measures of equity and uniformity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP), finalised in the meetings of Chief Ministers held on 16th October and 3rd December, 1996, *inter-alia,* has recommended that determination of retail tariffs including wheeling charges etc. will be decided by State Electricity Regulatory Commission, which will ensure a minimum overall 3% rate of return to each utility with immediate effect. The Ninth Five Year Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

(b) During the year 1996-97, State Electricity Boards of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya and Electricity De partment of Goa have carried put upward revision in the tariff. The free electricity to Agriculture Sector is being supplied to Tamil Nadu. Some State Governments also declare, from time to time free/ concessional agricultural tariff to small farmers using 5 HP pump sets.

(c) As per the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, State Electricity Boards/State Governments are empowered to fix the electricity tariff. During the Chief Minis ters Conference it was also agreed that the tariff for agricultural sector will not be less than 50 paise/kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years.